

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for placing a telephone call from a caller using a prepaid phone card, the method comprising the steps of:
 - connecting a caller with a caller interface having a speech recognition application, wherein said caller initially dials a telephone network access number to connect to said caller interface;
 - identifying said caller based on the origination of said initial telephone call;
 - receiving voice input from said caller in the form of a desired call connection ~~personal identification number (PIN)~~ spoken by said caller;
 - ~~converting said spoken personal identification number (PIN) into computer readable text;~~
 - comparing said voice input spoken by said caller ~~converted computer readable text~~ with a personal voice print associated with said call connection and ~~identification number (PIN)~~ assigned to said caller's phone card and previously stored in a database; and
 - placing said desired call connection ~~a requested telephone call~~ if said voice input spoken by ~~converted computer readable text from~~ said caller matches said personal voice print ~~identification number (PIN)~~ assigned to said caller's phone card stored in said database with respect to said call connection.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) A method for placing a telephone call as defined in Claim 1, wherein said voice print comprises a verbal telephone number identifier previously stored in said database by said caller with respect to said call connection and said step of placing said desired call connection comprises ~~further comprising~~ the step of retrieving a telephone number stored in said database if said a voice input from said caller matches said-a telephone number identifier assigned to said telephone number.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for placing a telephone call as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the step of voice prompting said caller to verbally provide said desired call connection personal identification number (PIN).

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method for placing a telephone call as defined in Claim 1 ~~5~~, wherein said caller interface identifies said caller based on the origination of said initial telephone call.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for placing a telephone call as defined in Claim 1, wherein said database is accessible by said caller via the internet for enabling said identification of said caller based on the origination of said initial telephone call and for storing and modifying said personalized voice print with respect to said call connection prepaid phone card information.

8. (Original) A method for placing a telephone call as defined in Claim 7, further comprising the step of providing said caller with an option to purchase additional prepaid time for said phone card via the internet.

9. (Original) A method for placing a telephone call as defined in Claim 7, further comprising the step of providing said caller with an option to store a personalized phonebook in said database via the internet, said phonebook containing a plurality of telephone numbers and associated telephone identifiers.

10. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication system for placing telephone calls from callers using a prepaid phone card, the system comprising:

a database for storing a caller's personal voice print assigned to a call connection and originating telephone information ~~identification number (PIN)~~ assigned to said caller's phone card; and

a caller interface having a speech recognition application for receiving voice input from said caller in the form of a desired call connection ~~personal identification (PIN) number~~ spoken by said caller after said caller dials a telephone network access number from said originating telephone, identifying said caller based on the origination of said telephone call ~~converting said spoken personal identification number (PIN) into computer readable text~~ and comparing said voice input ~~converted computer readable text~~ with said personal voice print ~~identification number (PIN)~~ assigned to said call connection and caller's phone card and stored in said database, wherein said caller interface is further adapted to place a requested telephone call if said originating telephone matches said originating telephone information stored in said database and said voice input ~~converted computer readable text~~ from said caller matches said personal voice print ~~identification number (PIN)~~ assigned to said caller's phone card stored in said database with respect to said call connection.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) A telecommunication system as defined in Claim 10, wherein said database is adapted to store at least one telephone number and at least one telephone number identifier assigned to said at least one telephone number, and said caller interface speech recognition application is adapted to receive voice input from said caller in the form of a telephone number identifier spoken by said caller and is adapted to retrieve said at least one telephone number if said spoken telephone number identifier matches said telephone number identifier assigned to said at least one telephone number.

13. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication system as defined in Claim 10, wherein said caller interface speech recognition application is adapted to voice prompt said caller to verbally provide said desired call connection ~~personal identification number (PIN)~~ voice input.

14. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication system as defined in Claim 10, wherein said database is accessible by said caller via the internet for enabling said identification of said caller based on the origination of said initial telephone call and for storing and modifying said personalized voice print ~~prepaid phone card information~~.